

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 523

H. P. 403

House of Representatives, February 13, 1979

Referred to the Committee on State Government. Sent up for concurrence and 2,000 ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Davies of Orono.

Cosponsors: Ms. Benoit of South Portland, Mr. Garsoe of Cumberland and Mrs. Masterton of Cape Elizabeth.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-NINE

AN ACT to Create a State Compensation Commission.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

Sec. 1. 3 MRSA § 2-A, is enacted to read:

§ 2-A. State Compensation Commission

1. State Compensation Commission established. There is established the State Compensation Commission, to consist of 5 members appointed as follows: 2 members shall be appointed by the President of the Senate; 2 members shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House; and 1 member shall be appointed by a majority of the preceding 4 commissioners, and shall serve as chairman of the commission. The 5 members shall be residents of the State, appointed from the public. No one may be appointed who is a Legislator at the time of his appointment.

All members shall be appointed for a term to coincide with the legislative biennium. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointments, for the balance of the unexpired term.

The members of the commission shall be paid a per diem, expenses, and allowances at the same rate as Legislators.

2. **Duties of the commission.** Not later than January 15th of every even-numbered year, the commission shall submit to the Legislature a report of the commission. The report shall contain: A description of the commission's activities; the recommendations of the commission; the reasons for its recommendations; drafts of any legislation required to implement its recommendations; and any other material that commission members may wish to submit.

Prior to reporting as required in the first paragraph, and subsequent to giving public notice, the commission shall hold a public hearing on the report. Subsequent to reporting, the commission shall meet, if requested, with the Governor, the Legislative Council and legislative committees to discuss the report.

The report shall contain recommendations: For all regular and special sessions of the next Legislature; for all compensation of Legislators and representatives of Indian tribes, including, but not limited to, all payments for salaries; for meals, housing, travel, mileage and all other expenses and allowances; for additional services as President of the Senate, Speaker of the House, and as a member of leadership; and for constituent services. The report shall also contain recommendations for compensation for the Attorney General, the Secretary of State, the Treasurer of State and the State Auditor. The report may contain other recommendations.

Sec. 2. Appropriation. The following funds shall be appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

	1979-80	1980-81
LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT		
State Compensation Commission		
All Other	\$1,500	\$300

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to establish a State Compensation Commission and a procedure for the commission to recommend compensation for the Legislature, the State Auditor and 3 constitutional officers.

The commission is to consist of 5 members, 2 each appointed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, with the 5th member appointed by the majority of the first 4 members. No person may be a Legislator at the time of his appointment.

The procedure is simple: The commission will review compensation for Legislators, the State Auditor and 3 constitutional officers and, after notice and a public hearing make recommendations to the Legislature at the beginning of the 2nd year of the biennium.